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Two component polyurethane sealants, a process for preparing them and their use for bonding a windscreen.

Two-component polyurethane sealants, in particular for the direct glazing of windcreens comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and a curing agent, and (B) a pasty water-containing component, component (A) containing a blocked curing agent which can be liberated by water, and component (B) containing water reversibly bonded to a carrier substance which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.

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The invention relates to two-component polyurethane sealants, in particular for the direct glazing of motor vehicle windscreens, comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and a curing agent, and (B) a pasty water-containing component. Sealants of this type have been disclosed in GB-A-1 104 831 and EP-A-371 370. The invention also relates to a process for preparing such sealants and a particular component (B) for use in such sealants.

A fundamental problem of sealants of this type is that, on the one hand, the processing time must be sufficiently long to ensure flawless processing of the sealant before it cures, but, on the other hand, the curing must, for obvious reasons, take place as rapidly as possible when processing is complete. Finally, the polyurethane component A must also have an adequate shelf life.

Although the known two-component polyurethane sealants have sufficient strength, for example, one hour after mixing, the processing time is, however, too short, which means problems can arise even during mixing of components (A) and (B) due to premature gelling of the sealants.

It was now been found that a particularly favourable behaviour with respect to processing time and curing rate is obtained in two-component polyurethane sealants of the type mentioned above if component B contains water reversibly bonded to a carrier substance, which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.

The invention accordingly provides two-component polyurethane sealants, in particular for the direct glazing of motor vehicle windscreens, comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and a curing agent, and (B) a pasty water-containing component, characterized in that component (A) contains a blocked curing agent which can be liberated by water, and component (B) contains water, reversibly bonded to a carrier substance which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.

As shown by the examples and comparative examples below, the sealants according to the invention have on the one hand an entirely adequate processing time or gelling time of from about 10 to 30 minutes, while, on the other hand, a shear strength of at least 0.2 N/mm² is achieved after one hour and virtually the final shear strength of about 4 N/mm² is achieved after only 4 hours.

In component (B), the carrier substance ensures that water is not immediately available to component (A) for reaction with the isocyanate groups or for liberation of the curing agent when it is bonded to a molecular sieve, but instead delayed liberation of water takes place, which results in an extension of the processing time.

Suitable carrier substances for binding water in component (B) are all substances which are capable of reversibly binding water and liberating water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed. Examples of preferred carrier substances are ground cellulose, starch and cork. Pyrogenic silica is less suitable.

The carrier substance is preferably finely particulate, so that, for example, at least 50 % of the particles have a size of less than 40 µm. Examples of suitable commercial products are cellulose powder or native potato starch.

Ground cellulose and starch are capable of reversibly binding water up to a maximum ratio by weight of 1:1.

In a preferred embodiment, the carrier substance which contains water in reversibly bonded form is dispersed in an inert viscous liquid in order to achieve the desired pasty consistency. Suitable viscous liquids here are in principle all those which do not react, in particular, with the isocyanate groups of the polyurethane prepolymer of component (A) and also have no other disadvantageous effects on the cured sealant.

The inert viscous liquids are preferably plasticisers for the cured sealant, preference being given in turn to aromatic alkylsulphonic acid esters and alkyl aryl phthalates such as benzyl butylphthalate.

Examples of suitable commercial products are alkylsulphonic acid esters of phenol or cresol and ACTREL 400 (product of the addition reaction of methylstyrene and bicyclic, partially hydrogenated aromatics) from ESSO.

Furthermore, component (B) preferably contains a thixotropic agent, with carbon black being particularly preferred.

It is also possible to further add polyols to component (B) to increase the initial strength of the sealant. Such polyols should have a molecular weight from about 200 to about 1000. A suitable commercial product is polyoxypropylenetriol (molecular weight about 450).

Component (B) may contain further conventional additives and processing aids, such as anti-oxidants, dyes, pigments, fillers or wetting agents.

In a preferred embodiment, component (B) contains a wetting agent. Wetting agents contribute to compatibility and thus improve the smoothness of the sealant. Preferred examples of suitable wetting agents are sorbitan monolaurate and polyoxyethylene (10) oleyl alcohol.

Finally, component (B), in a further preferred embodiment, contains an aromatic solvent, preferably toluene

or xylene.

Suitable polyurethane prepolymers are known to persons skilled in the art. These prepolymers contain terminal free isocyanate groups, which are capable of reacting both with the curing agent present in component (A) and with water introduced through component (B), with enlargement of the molecule and curing. This involves the following reactions occurring simultaneously. Firstly, delayed successive liberation of water from component (B) takes place. The water liberates the blocked curing agent, and the latter reacts with the polyurethane prepolymer; however, water can also react directly with the isocyanate groups.

The curing agent of component (A) is preferably an at least difunctional primary or secondary amine. A preferred difunctional primary amine is ethylenediamine.

The curing agent is preferably blocked by being bonded to a molecular sieve, in a further embodiment, omitting the molecular sieve, the curing agent employed is an at least difunctional amine derivative in which the amine functions have been chemically blocked by conversion into enamines or ketimines, it is furthermore possible according to the invention, again with omission of the molecular sieve, for the curing agents employed to be oxazolidines, which are per se difunctional, chemically blocked curing agents which can be liberated by water.

In a further preferred embodiment, component (A) contains a thixotropic agent, with carbon black being particularly preferred.

Although the isocyanate groups of the polyurethane prepolymer are also capable of reacting with water of atmospheric moisture, the main reaction, due to the early shear strength which is desired, is the crosslinking reaction with water liberated from the carrier substance of component (B) or with the curing agent in component (A) liberated from the molecular sieve by this water. The ratios can be selected so that there is either a stoichiometric excess or a substoichiometric amount of free NCO groups relative to the reactive groups present in water and the curing agent. The latter case is preferred since it results in more rapid curing.

Both components (A) and (B) are in pasty form, i.e. are not free-flowing.

In addition to the pasty consistency of components (A) and (B), the non-Newtonian properties (thixotropic behaviour) also play a part in the mixing behaviour of the components. Control may in each case be effected through the choice of the type and amount of the inert viscous liquid and of the thixotropic agent.

As far as the amount of component (B) relative to component (A) is concerned, the molar amounts of water in component (B) and of curing agent in component (A) on the one hand the free isocyanate groups in component (A) on the other hand must in turn be taken into account, preference being given, as stated above, to a substoichiometric amount of NCO.

In the sealants according to the invention, component (A) contains from about 20 to 80 parts by weight, preferably from 35 to 55 parts by weight, in particular from 40 to 45 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of component (A), of the polyurethane prepolymer, and from 20 to 120 eq-%, preferably from 40 to 80 eq-%, in each case based on the number of equivalents of isocyanate in the polyurethane prepolymer, of the curing agent. Since, in the case of curing agents bonded to the molecular sieve, all the curing agent should be bonded, the amount of molecular sieve depends on the amount of curing agent. In general, from about 5000 to 400 parts by weight, preferably from 1250 to 700 parts by weight, of molecular sieve, based on 100 parts by weight of curing agent in component (A), are present for this purpose if component (A) contains a thixotropic agent, it is present in such amounts that the material is firm and not free-flowing in the case of carbon black, amounts of from about 7 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of component (A) are generally necessary for this purpose.

Component (B) contains the carrier substance in an amount sufficient for complete bonding of water and, within certain limits which are of practical importance, for controlling the curing rate. The ratio by weight between the carrier substance and water is generally from about 1:0.25 to 1:1, preferably from 1:0.5 to 1:0.8. The carrier substance (with water bonded thereto) is preferably dispersed in an inert viscous liquid. If component (B) contains a thixotropic agent, for example carbon black, this is preferably present in such amounts that a pasty consistency is produced. To this end, amounts of about 7 to 15 % by weight, based on component (B), are generally sufficient. If component (B) contains a polyol, this is preferably present in amounts of about 10 to 100 meq of OH. If component (B) contains an aromatic solvent, this is preferably present in amounts of about 2 to 10 % by weight, based on component (B).

Preferably components (A) and (B) are employed in a ratio by volume of at least 2 : 1, and more preferably in the range from about 5 : 1 to 100 : 1.

The invention furthermore relates to a process for preparing a sealant as hereinabove described, especially those where components (A) and (B) are employed in a ratio by volume of at least 2:1, comprising mixing components (A) and (B) using a static mixer, which process is characterized in that the said static mixer has only from about 15 to 75 %, preferably from about 40 to 50 % of the number of mixing elements necessary for achieving homogeneous mixing of components (A) and (B) in the ratio by volume of 1:1.

The static mixer used for mixing preferably has an internal diameter in the range from about 5 to 30 mm, in particular in the range from 10 to 20 mm.

Static mixers, also known as motionless mixers, have non-moving, i.e. static, guide or mixing elements built into the flow channel. In this respect, see Perry's Chemical Engineers Handbook, 6th Edition (1984), 19-22 to 19-23. Particularly preferred static mixer designs are the Kenics mixer and the Package mixer.

Preference is given to a Kenics mixer which has only from 4 to 18, in particular from 8 to 12, mixing elements instead of the at least 24 mixing elements necessary to homogeneously mix components (A) and (B) in the ratio by volume of 1:1.

If a Package mixer is used, it preferably has only from 4 to 21, in particular from 11 to 14, mixing elements instead of the at least 28 mixing elements necessary to homogeneously mix components (A) and (B) in the ratio by volume of 1:1.

In the process of the invention, mixing of components (A) and (B) is not continued until homogeneity is achieved. The reduced number of mixing elements in the mixer allows the operating pressure to be reduced, so that satisfactory discharge rates are possible using conventional spray guns.

Processing by means of static mixers only as far as a less than homogeneous state results in a layered structure, the layers being formed alternately from components (A) and (B). As a consequence, due to the limitation on the diffusion, the molecular sieve-bonded curing agent of component (A) is not displaced in a sudden manner by water of component (B), which in turn means that the curing, preferably amine curing, of the polyurethane prepolymer only sets in gradually, while, on the other hand, the diffusing water is itself also capable of reacting with the isocyanate groups. Overall, this achieves a particularly balanced ratio between processing time and early shear strength.

The sealants according to the present invention are especially advantageous and designed for bonding windcreens of cars and automobiles, and more particularly those cars with directly glazed windows. Therefore according to the present invention we provide a method for bonding a windscreen by applying a two-component polyurethane sealant comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and blocked curing agent which can be liberated by water and (B) a pasty component containing water reversibly bonded to a carrier substance which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.

In further detail, components (A) and (B) of the polyurethane sealant used in the said method will be as described hereinabove.

The examples and comparative examples below illustrate the invention. Unless otherwise stated, parts are by weight.

I - Preparation of component (A)

32.85 parts of phenolalkylsulphonic acid ester (plasticiser MESAMOLL® from BAYER AG), 19.00 parts of a polyester triol made from polypropylene oxide (DESMOPHEN® 1910U from BAYER AG), 13.90 parts of a polyester diol made from polypropylene oxide (DESMOPHEN® 1900U from BAYER AG), 0.10 part of p-toluenesulphonamide, 6.82 parts of diphenylmethane 4,4'-diisocyanate (DESMODUR® 44MS from BAYER AG) and 19.00 parts of carbon black (ELFTEX® 465 from CABOT) are dispersed homogeneously with warming, 0.05 part of dibutyltin dilaurate are added, and the mixture is kept at 80°C for 1 hour. 8.40 parts of a suspension of molecular sieve charged with ethylenediamine are added to the hot mixture, which is then stirred until homogeneous.

The pasty mixture obtained is transferred (with exclusion of air) into cartridges.

II - Préparation of the molecular sieve suspension used in I

3.79 parts of molecular sieve powder (4Å) are dispersed in 4.20 parts of phenolalkylsulphonic acid ester (MESAMOLL® from BAYER AG). 0.42 part of ethylenediamine are added, and the mixture is stirred for 48 hours.

III - Preparation of a component (B) (comparative example)

3.00 parts of pyrogenic silica (AEROSIL® 200 from DEGUSSA) are dispersed in 15.00 parts of water. The pasty mixture obtained is in turn dispersed in 70.00 parts of phenylalkylsulphonic acid ester (MESAMOLL® from BAYER AG), and the mixture obtained is adjusted to a pasty consistency by adding 15.00 parts of carbon black.

The pasty mixture obtained is transferred into cartridges.

Examples 1-6

The constituents (without water) indicated in Table I are in each case dispersed. After addition of water, the mixture is stirred for 15 minutes. The pasty material obtained is transferred into cartridges.

Table I

| Constituent, parts by weight | Example | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Native potato starch | - | - | 15 | 15 | - | - |
| Cellulose a) | 15 | 15 | - | - | 15 | 15 |
| Plasticiser b) | 60 | 65 | 60 | 65 | 60 | 60 |
| Thixotropic agent c) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Water | 15 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Polyol d) | - | - | - | - | 5 | - |
| Xylene | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |

a) Commercial product (XX-01®) from Mikro-Technik

b) Phenolalkylsulphonic acid ester, MESAMOLL® from BAYER AG

c) Carbon black, ELFTEX® 465 from CABOT

d) VORANOL® CP from DOW

The results are shown in Table II:

Table II

| | Processing time (max. permissible residence time in the static mixer, min.) | Gelling time, min. | Shear strength (N/mm ²) after | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----|------|
| | | | 1 h | 4 h | 24 h |
| Comp. example | 1 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Example 1 | 10 | 20 | 0.35 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Example 2 | 15 | 30 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 4.6 |
| Example 3 | 10 | 20 | 0.35 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| Example 4 | 15 | 30 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 4.6 |
| Example 5 | 15 | 20 | 1.2 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Example 6 | 10 | 20 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 4.4 |

Table II shows that although good shear strength is achieved after 1 hour in the comparative example, the processing time is only 1 minute since there is a risk of the mixer blocking due to gelling after this time. The processing time here is taken to mean the maximum permissible residence time in the static mixer during which the material can still be forced out by hand. The gelling time is only 2.5 minutes. By contrast, the residence time in the mixer in all Examples 1 to 6 is at least 10 minutes, with a gelling time of at least 20 minutes. The shear strength after 1 hour is adequate. After 4 hours, the same strength as in the comparative example is achieved.

Claims

- Two-component polyurethane sealants, comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and a curing agent, and (B) a pasty water-containing component, characterized in that component (A) contains a blocked curing agent which can be liberated by water, and component (B) contains water reversibly bonded to a carrier substance which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.
- Sealant according to Claim 1, characterized in that component (B) contains, as carrier substance, ground cellulose, starch or cork.
- Sealant according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that component (B) contains the carrier substance dispersed in an inert viscous liquid.
- Sealant according to Claim 3, characterized in that the viscous liquid is a plasticiser for the cured sealant.
- Sealant according to Claim 4, characterized in that the plasticiser is selected from aromatic alkylsulphonic acid esters and alkyl aryl phthalates.
- Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that component (B) further contains a thixotropic agent.
- Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that component (B) further contains a polyol.

8. Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that component (B) further contains a wetting agent.
9. Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that component (B) further contains an aromatic solvent.
10. Sealant according to Claim 9, characterized in that the aromatic solvent is toluene or xylene.
11. Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that component (A) contains, as curing agent, a primary or secondary, at least difunctional amine which has been blocked by bonding to a molecular sieve.
12. Sealant according to Claim 11, characterized in that the amine is ethylenediamine.
13. Sealant according to one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that component (A) contains, as curing agent, an at least difunctional amine derivative in which the amine function has been chemically blocked by conversion into the corresponding enamine or ketimine function.
14. Sealant according to one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that component (A) contains, as curing agent, an oxazolidine.
15. Sealant according to one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that component (A) further contains a thixotropic agent.
16. Sealant according to one of claims 6 and 15 characterized in that the thixotropic agent is carbon black.
17. Pasty water-containing component (B) for use in sealants according to one of claims 1 to 10.
18. Sealant according to any of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that components (A) and (B) are employed in a ratio by volume of at least 2:1.
19. Sealant according to claim 18, characterized in that components (A) and (B) are employed in a ratio by volume in the range from 5:1 to 100:1.
20. Process for preparing a sealant according to claim 18, comprising mixing components (A) and (B) using a static mixer, characterized in that the said static mixer has only from 15 to 75 % of the number of mixing elements necessary for achieving homogeneous mixing of components (A) and (B) in the ratio by volume of 1:1.
21. Process according to Claim 20, characterized in that the said static mixer has only from 40 to 50 % of the number of mixing elements necessary to homogeneously mix components (A) and (B) in the ratio by volume of 1:1.
22. Process according to one of Claim 20 and 21, characterized in that the said static mixer has an internal diameter of from 5 to 30 mm.
23. Process according to one of Claims 20 and 22, characterized in that a Kenics mixer is used which has only from 4 to 18 mixing elements.
24. Process according to one of Claims 20 and 22, characterized in that a Package mixer is used which has from 4 to 21 mixing elements.
25. A method for bonding a windscreen by applying a two-component polyurethane sealant comprising (A) a pasty polyurethane component containing a polyurethane prepolymer having free isocyanate groups, and a blocked curing agent, which can be liberated by water, and (B) a pasty component containing water reversibly bonded to a carrier substance which liberates water in a delayed manner after components (A) and (B) have been mixed.



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 40 2361

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5) |
| X | US-A-4 469 857 (GUENTHER JOHN) * claims 1,2,4-7 * * column 2, line 15 - column 3, line 51 * * column 4, line 16 - line 30 * --- | 1,2,13 | C08G18/10 C08G18/30 C08G18/32 C09K3/10 C09J175/04 |
| D,A | EP-A-0 371 370 (HENKEL) * claims 1-6,9 * * page 3, line 6 - line 33 * --- | 1 | |
| D,A | GB-A-1 104 831 (BOSTIK LTD.) * claims 1-3,9-13,17 * --- | 1 | |
| A | FR-A-1 393 412 (I.C.I.) *abstract, points A1-A3* --- | 1 | |
| A | EP-A-0 000 381 (BAYER) * claim 1 * * page 17, column 6 - page 18, column 25 * --- | 1 | |
| A | EP-A-0 351 728 (TEROSON) * claims 1,3,4 * ----- | 1 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) |
| | | | C08G C09K C09J |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 06 JANUARY 1992 | Examiner VAN PUYNBROECK M. A. |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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